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OLC 71-0993

20 September 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Chairman Lee Hamilton re Briefing of the Near East Subcommittee of House Foreign Affairs

1. This morning I met with Chairman Hamilton and Michael Van Dusen, of the Subcommittee staff, and explained that I wanted to work out arrangements for an informal roundup briefing on the Near East in response to Mr. Hamilton's request and in line with Chairman Morgan's suggestion that the matter be handled informally and off the record. Mr. Hamilton said he was not entirely pleased with these arrangements, but would defer to Chairman Morgan's wishes. However, he said he would try to get the ground rules changed in the future since he saw no reason why the Agency shouldn't brief formal sessions of House Foreign Affairs subcommittees, just as it had briefed formal sessions of Senate Foreign Relations subcommittees. I said I was in no position to negotiate regarding the long-established ground rules in this regard.

2. In response to my question, Mr. Hamilton said he would like the following subjects covered:

a. Present and prospective military balance between Israel and Egypt.

b. Agency assessment of the status and prospects of [redacted] 25X1

c. Political stability of the various Arab countries.

d. The Soviet presence, and Soviet policies, in the Middle East.

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e. The Persian Gulf situation.

f. Agency assessment of the oil situation, including the importance of Middle Eastern oil to the U.S. (I explained that the latter part of this question would be outside of the Agency's competence.)

g. Prospects and ramifications of reopening the Canal, and whether this could effectively contribute to a settlement. (He confided that some members of his Subcommittee are opposed to reopening the Canal, arguing that it would benefit the Soviets.)

25X1 3. When told that [redacted] whom we would prefer to handle the briefing, would not be available until 4 October, Mr. Hamilton agreed 25X1 to put off the briefing until [redacted] returns and tentatively set the morning of Thursday, 7 October. He said we should keep in touch with Mr. Van Dusen regarding details. 25X1

[redacted]

JOHN M. MAURY
Legislative Counsel

Distribution:
Original - Subject (Briefing file)
1 - Committee file
1 - DDI
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